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# SOUNDINGS

## THE DISTRICT OF PARRY SOUND LOCAL GOVERNMENT STUDY

Greetings. This first issue of SOUNDINGS introduces you to the District of Parry Sound Local Government Study. Inside are articles describing the background to the study, how it is organized, who is participating and what has been accomplished so far.

It is important that you as a resident of Parry Sound know what's being discussed, what might be recommended and changed as a result of the study, and how you can participate in the discussions. As is so often said in this kind of exercise, the most important step is not really getting the answers, but in asking the right questions.

From meetings and conversations, from statements of municipal councils and many other sources, the study group has tried to identify the important trends, issues and problems affecting local government in the District of Parry Sound in 1974.

Among these are the topics listed below — all stated in the form of questions — that your representatives on the area committees and the study group need your help in answering.

### Population trends:

What are the trends in the population size, location, and age composition of the district? What will be the effects of more year-round recreation development, early retirement and local employment opportunities on the district's economy and social

structure? Should population growth be encouraged? How much and where?

### Employment:

What can be done to locate more jobs in the district? Is more year-round recreational and tourism development the best answer? Where can commercial and industrial firms operate profitably to benefit the district's economy and residents — but not hurt the district's natural beauty?

### External influences:

What impact do North Bay and Muskoka have on the economy of the district? What are the direct and indirect influences of seasonal residents, cottagers and travellers from urban southern Ontario and the United States?

### Environment:

Are there areas of the district where lakes, shoreline or land are being threatened by overdevelopment or lack of controls? How can lakes be protected from pollution and overcrowding?

### Municipal organization:

What are the advantages and disadvantages of today's municipal system? Are the present staff and financial resources adequate for coping with present and future development? How can the municipalities be strengthened without becoming inaccessible to the residents? What support is there for larger municipal units? What has been the experience of the large intermunicipal boards to date — district social services, boards of education, health units?

### Municipal services:

What local services and programs are presently available to residents? What services are lacking that will be needed in the future? How would these be paid for? What facilities are now shared by two or more municipalities?

### Provincial services:

What direct services are provided by provincial

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ministries? How could these services be improved? Could some be performed by local municipalities?

#### Planning:

What is the capacity of the present municipal system to plan for future development?

How can improvements be made?

What is the impact of various provincial ministries who undertake land use planning here?

#### Transportation and communications:

What improvements have to be made to enable better travel and communications in the district? What will be the effects of improved and re-routed highways?

#### How do I get involved?

To begin with, your six area committees provide the best means of keeping you informed and involved. Residents and resident groups are encouraged to attend all open meetings of the area committees to learn about the progress of the study, express your views and comments, and to question the findings and assumptions of your committee representatives and the study group itself.

The committees have agreed that their meetings should be open to the public as often as possible. Committee meetings are held with the study group about every two months and meeting arrangements are published in the local newspapers.

#### More reports coming

In addition to SOUNDINGS and routine news releases, several reports will be circulated widely in the spring and early summer. One will deal with the present planning organization, problems and needs in the district. The other will be a data book containing detailed information on local government and the social and economic characteristics of the district.

Public meetings will be held following the release of the two reports.

Meanwhile, the study group will be setting up an office in the district. Arrangements are being made to equip an information trailer to visit district communities during the summer months. Study staff will be on hand in this mobile information unit to meet informally with you, answer questions, and obtain comments.

## Why this district is looking at planning and local government

Large distances, scattered populations and a need for improved financial and administrative machinery to handle planning problems were the critical factors that resulted in the launching of the District of Parry Sound Local Government Study.

The study, announced last August by MPP Donald Irvine when he was Parliamentary Assistant to Treasurer John White, marks a fresh initiative in a chain of events that began more than two years ago with a decision by the Parry Sound District Municipal Association.

The association, long the focus of municipal discussions about the future of the district, had been taking a hard look at the bewildering array of planning problems facing the 54 geographic units (27 of them organized, 27 unorganized) and concluded that an outside appraisal was urgently needed. So in the summer of 1971, it asked the provincial government for advice in setting up a district planning program.

#### District planning appraisal

The government's response, through the former Department of Municipal Affairs, was to hire a firm of planning consultants with instructions to appraise the district's problems, to propose a planning program, and to assess the cost and time involved in completing that program.

The study, called A Planning Program for the District of Parry Sound, An Appraisal, was carried out by Proctor, Redfern, Bousfield and Bacon. Their report was submitted to the government in March, 1972.

On June 14, 1972, several hundred municipal representatives from across the district gathered in Sundridge to climax a series of discussions on the appraisal results.

The talks soon centred on the limited financial and administrative ability of the local municipalities, as they were presently organized, to develop and implement planning policies of the scale considered to be necessary.

Because of the large number of municipalities and unorganized settlements in the area from Georgian Bay east to Algonquin Park (with a population roughly equal to half the City of North Bay) the idea of having a joint planning board was considered impractical.

In fact, the delegates felt that, without larger and stronger municipal units, any planning policies would have to be prepared and implemented by the province.

#### Annexation discussions

Since those 1972 discussions, more and more municipal people have been showing an interest in the kind of local government reform that would be required to steer the district into the next century.

There was considerable talk, for example, about annexation or consolidations in the areas surrounding Powassan, Magnetawan, Perry Township, Sundridge and, most prominently, the Town of Parry Sound.

Residents in the unorganized territory south of Parry Sound — Conger and Cowper townships — and in the Argyle and Restoule areas along Highway 522 were also interested in looking at the possibilities of incorporation.

That same year, the Town of Parry Sound and the Townships of Foley and McDougall made application to the Ontario Municipal Board to annex a large portion of the southwest part of the district to create a single municipal unit comprising nine existing municipalities and parts of six unorganized townships.

But the applications of the three municipalities were countered by applications from the six municipalities surrounding them. This second series proposed the incorporation of an even

larger area — two-thirds of it unorganized — into three municipalities.

Both applications were backed by detailed planning studies prepared by consulting firms.

#### OMB hearings

After hearing in July and October of '72, the Ontario Municipal Board dismissed the first application on the grounds that:

"... WHERE THERE WAS TO BE EXTENSIVE RESTRUCTURING OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SUCH AS THESE APPLICATIONS INVOLVE, IT SHOULD BE PREFERABLE, TO SAY THE LEAST, THAT IT SHOULD BE BY AN ACT OF THE LEGISLATURE RATHER THAN BY AN ORDER OF THE BOARD."

Hearings on the second application, held in April and July of '73, brought criticisms from participants and from representatives of district associations about the lack of information and objective discussion throughout the OMB proceedings.

Meanwhile, discussions between the Ministry of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs and the municipalities were producing a consensus that planning and local government should be addressed as complementary issues.

At the spring 1973 meeting of the District of Parry Sound Municipal Association, Parliamentary Assistant Don Irvine stated his view that "some municipal consolidations may be the best way of carrying out planning and other programs needed in this area."

At that same meeting, the association passed this resolution:

"THAT THE PARRY SOUND MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION REQUEST THE PROVINCE TO DO A STUDY OF ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS IN THE DISTRICT OF PARRY SOUND IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE OFFICIAL PLAN. THIS STUDY TO BE DONE IN COOPERATION WITH THE PEOPLE OF PARRY SOUND DISTRICT AND AT THE EXPENSE OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT."

#### A better way

On August 23, 1973, at meetings in Foley and South River, Mr. Irvine noted in a statement that "there exist better ways to examine the implications of annexation and amalgamation."

"The hearing procedure and the courtroom atmosphere", he said, "are not very conducive to an informed and rational discussion concerning the future of local government in your area."

"There is no question in my mind that local government reform must be achieved in an open environment with a frank and extensive discussion of the alternatives."

It was at these meetings that he announced the government's decision to proceed with a study of local government organization and planning for the District of Parry Sound.

So after more than two years of discussion, study, and several controversial amalgamation/annexation applications, the district at last had an organized, cooperative approach for helping it set its sights on tomorrow.



# Welcome

to the first issue of  
**SOUNDINGS**

This special supplement is the first in a series of publications, news releases and other information projects designed to keep you up-to-date on the progress of the District of Parry Sound Local Government Study.

Over the coming months, staff of our study group will be in frequent consultation with your six area committees in arranging meetings, analyzing the large inventory of data that is now being accumulated, and preparing maps and reports on your district's physical, social and economic resources.

The object of this exercise, as you well know, is two-fold: to develop a realistic planning program for the District of Parry Sound and to reorganize your municipal institutions so that your district may have a stronger and more responsive system of local government for meeting the challenges of growth and change.

I am sure you will all agree by now that a wide-scale program of land-use planning is needed in Parry Sound District; and that it would be extremely difficult — perhaps impossible — to mount such a program until we are all agreed on the kind of municipal structure and organization that will be needed to effectively translate planning goals and policies into action.

In fact, the activities in which our provincial study group and your area committees are now engaged represent the first stage of that planning process — the survey stage. The decisions that are finally arrived at after all the survey results are analyzed and discussed will affect every reader of this paper — and in ways not often realized.

That is why it is extremely important for each of you to have a say in the kind of local government and type of environment that you want for you and your children. Your constructive participation will make the work of your area committees and the study group that much easier.

While I admit that using the local press in this manner is an excellent way to share information with you, I still maintain that the best way to inform and involve people is through the one-to-one contacts that are best achieved through organizations such as your area committees.

So I urge you to attend as many open committee meetings as you can; to contact your area representative; to write or visit the study office if you have any questions or comments on local government, planning or on the study itself. I can assure you that you will always be welcome.

For really, at the heart of all this effort is the question: What do you want for the betterment of your district for the remaining decades of this century? Certainly we must find solutions to the many vexing problems of local

## 49 local people represent public on district study

Residents of Parry Sound District will have ample opportunity to make their views known about the future of local government and planning in their district. Here are the roles and activities of your local committees:

### Area Committees

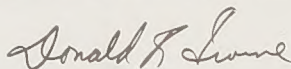
The six area committees are made up of municipal council members plus permanent residents from the unorganized areas. These 49 people are the main source of local information and opinion on local government and planning.

government and planning, especially the fundamental challenge of meeting increasing demands on the District's resources — human, environmental and financial — with a realistic and responsive plan for balanced future development.

Information has been collected, a structure for discussion has been established and some of the important issues are now becoming apparent.

Now the area committees, the municipal councils, the study group and you the residents must get down to the hard work and discussions that will be required.

I look forward to your participation and support as we move forward with the District of Parry Sound Local Government Study. Given that, I am convinced we cannot help but succeed in our task.



Donald R. Irvine,  
Minister Without Portfolio.



Following Don Irvine's suggestion last August that some area committees be established, representatives of municipalities and local roads boards met in Magnetawan on September 5. Here they drew up the recommendations for the boundaries and composition of six area committees to act as advisory bodies during the study. As a result of that meeting:

—Municipal representatives on the committees (one from each municipality) were appointed by the municipalities in September and October.

—Representatives of the permanent residents in unorganized territory (one from each township or major community) were selected by their fellow residents at public meetings held during the week of October 29.

Now fully organized, most of the area committees have held at least one working meeting and one public meeting, and are already involved in a full-scale investigation of the district's social, physical and economic resources.

Examples of progress to date:

**Local services questionnaire:** This is a fundamental inventory of existing municipal organization, staff and services and of all special-purpose boards and commissions in the district. The information has now been collected and forwarded to the study group.

**Problems and needs:** What are the issues that need to be discussed in detail through committee and public meetings and study reports? Preliminary statements on goals, objectives, problems and needs are being drawn up by each area committee member — in some cases with help from residents through meetings and questionnaires.

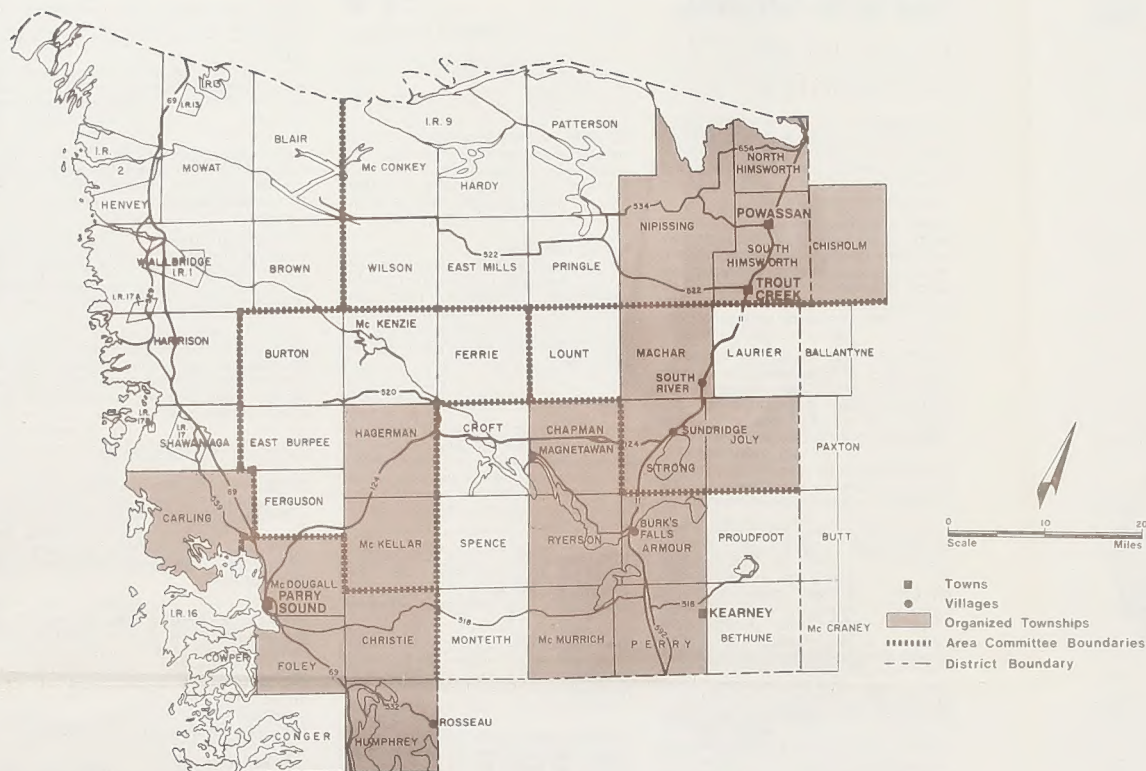
**Historical information:** Historical sites, trends and traditions are sensitive anchors to the past in strengthening local government and planning future land use. A draft report covering some of this information has been forwarded to the area committees by the Ministry of Natural Resources for comments and additions.

**Land use mapping:** Information on present land use and development will be an indispensable data base once the study's planning program moves from initial surveys to the analysis stage. Detailed maps are now being prepared by the study staff and are being checked for accuracy by area committee members and municipal clerks.

### District Municipal Advisory Committee

The chairman of each area committee is represented on the District Municipal Advisory Committee which was set up to represent the interests of the entire district. The committee will make recommendations to the study group on local government reorganization and planning. It will also meet with intermunicipal bodies, provincial ministries, and other agencies and associations whose interest covers more than an area committee's jurisdiction.

The District Municipal Advisory Committee is also responsible for meeting with municipalities close to the study area and, on major issues, with the minister responsible for municipal affairs — Don Irvine.



# the study area





photos: Ron Brown, Regional Planning Branch



# the study group

They're probing past, present  
for guidelines to the future

Provincial Government staff of the study group provide technical advice, information and other assistance to the area and district advisory committees. They also do the required surveys and analyses.

To date, the group has been involved in organizing the area committees and their meetings and in collecting information on the district. Items:

## Intermunicipal bodies

Information meetings have been held with representatives of special-purpose boards and other local authorities covering most of the district, including those responsible for health, education, libraries and social services.

The next step will be to arrange meetings between these bodies, the area committees and the district municipal advisory committee to sort out mutual issues and problems and develop recommendations on local government reorganization and district planning.

## Local organizations

The study group has already been in contact with local organizations including cottage and resident associations and the media.

If your organization is interested in the future of the district, you should contact your area committee chairman or the study office to express your views first-hand, or — better still — to arrange a meeting.

Members of the study group will be happy to speak at your regular meeting about the problems and prospects of local government reorganization and planning.

## Provincial ministries

Two types of valuable information are available from the provincial government.

One involves ministerial programs and services, existing and planned, in the Parry Sound District. In addition, many ministries provide valuable basic information on the district's physical, economic and social characteristics.

The study group has already met with representatives of provincial ministries and agencies, and summaries of this information will be prepared for the committees and for public discussion.

## Mapping program

The Ministry of Natural Resources has helped the study considerably by preparing a series of "thematic maps". They form part of the basic information needed for any planning program.

The first mapping series, now completed, shows information on such topics as physical characteristics (geology, soil materials, watershed units); land capability (recreation, agriculture, forestry, wildlife, mining potential); and historic sites. Where necessary these are being checked for accuracy by area committee members and municipal clerks.

Other maps will soon be prepared showing transportation and communications, commercial tourism and recreation facilities, community services and population distribution.

The maps will be used in committee discussions and public meetings as well as in the analysis stage of the study.

## Provincial Liaison Committee

This committee, composed of representatives from provincial ministries and agencies, helps the study group with its activities. It also maintains inter-ministerial liaison on programs and policies affecting the study area.

The variety of skills and disciplines in our study group reflects the view of the province and the Parry Sound municipalities that planning and local government reform should be discussed together.

Since most of the members work part-time on the study, the group is being assisted by technical and administrative personnel in their various offices.

(A full-time planner, planning technician and several summer students are now being hired to help with the work.)



top to bottom  
James Barker  
Ron Foy  
Fred Hill  
Dave Martin  
Kryz Sowa

**James Barker**, a planner, is lands coordinator for the Algonquin Region of the Ministry of Natural Resources. Jim is mainly responsible for managing and planning Crown Land and unorganized territory. His office is in Huntsville.

**Ron Foy**, senior planner for the Ministry of Housing's northeastern region, has worked with local planning boards and councils in northern Ontario. His office is now in Sudbury.

**Fred Hill** is municipal administration officer with the advisory services branch of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs. Fred has had many years' experience in municipal affairs, particularly in northern Ontario, and is well known to municipal councils and staff in Parry Sound District.

**Dave Martin**, a geographer, is policy advisor in the local government organization branch of TE & IA, and is the full-time Parry Sound District study officer.

**Kryz Sowa**, community planning advisor at TE & IA's Sudbury regional office, has been promoting sound land use planning in Parry Sound and other districts in northeastern Ontario for many years.

**John Pearson**, co-ordinator of programs for the local government organization branch, was chairman of the Intergovernmental Committee on Government at the District Level in Northern Ontario.



# Area committee membership

## NORTHEAST

### municipalities

POWASSAN: Merv Oshell, chairman  
NORTH HIMSWORTH: A.E. Bullock, vice-chairman  
SOUTH HIMSWORTH: Francis Young  
TROUT CREEK: Berl Renette  
NIPISSING: Kelth Moore  
CHISHOLM: Cecil Topp

### unorganized areas

PATTERSON TWP: Elmer Porter  
PRINGLE TWP: Otto Shermer  
ARNSTEIN: H.E. Hempel  
GOLDEN VALLEY: Mrs. Josephine Grawbarger  
LORING: Allan Yeo  
PORT LORING: Bud Whitnell

## EAST

### municipalities

SOUTH RIVER: G.J. Fitzsimmons, chairman  
JOLY: K. Heinonen  
SUNDRIE: Cecie Boyes  
MACHAR: Wilfr. McLaren  
STRONG: Rodger Brimacombe

### unorganized townships

LAURIER: Ian McNeil  
LOUNT: Jim Delta

## SOUTHEAST

### municipalities

MAGNETAWAN: Arthur Raaflaub, vice-chairman  
KEARNEY: Harold Shaw  
BURK'S FALLS: Norm Mason  
ARMOUR: George Dibben  
CHAPMAN: Alvin Hall  
MCMURRICH: Pete McAughy  
PERRY: Clare Sherratt  
RYERSON: Wes Todd

### unorganized townships

BETHUNE: Les Varley, chairman  
CROFT: Marlin Hewson  
MONTEITH: Mrs. Edith Beausoleil  
PROUDFOOT: Tom Adair  
SPENCE: Colin Kippy

## SOUTHWEST

### municipalities

PARRY SOUND: Meth Adamson, chairman  
ROSSEAU: Mrs. Isobel Swainson  
CHRISTIE: Mrs. Muriel Westover  
FOLEY: Ken Hunter, vice-chairman  
HUMPHREY: John Bogart; alt. — Stan Hamer  
McDOUGALL: Ray Scriven

### unorganized townships

WEST CONGER AND COWPER: Ray Brown  
EAST CONGER: Wilfred Blackburn

## WEST

### municipalities

HAGERMAN: Frank Macfie  
McKELLAR: Mrs. Myrna Fenton

### unorganized townships

BURTON AND E. BURPEE: Bill Auld, chairman  
FERRIE AND McKENZIE: Mrs. Wilma Brear  
FERGUSON: Mrs. Ruby Vowels

## NORTHWEST

### municipalities

CARLING: Gordon Hammel

### unorganized townships

HARRISON & SHAWANAGA: Keith Rolph  
BLAIR, BROWN, HENVEY, MOWAT &  
WALLBRIDGE: Mrs. Gloria Cruikshank and Howard Read

# bookshelf

Here's a selection of publications that should provide useful background information on the study and on Ontario's programs of local government reform and planning.

Single copies of most publications (marked \*) are available from the study office.

Copies of publications in short supply are available as reference reading in TE & IA's library, Frost Building North, Queen's Park. They should also be found in many local libraries; municipal offices and district offices of the appropriate ministry.

## COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF REGIONAL GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION\*

Ministry of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs September 1972 (currently being up-dated)

## DESIGN FOR DEVELOPMENT: NORTHEASTERN ONTARIO REGION PHASE I: ANALYSIS

Department of Treasury and Economics January 23, 1971

## DESIGN FOR DEVELOPMENT: PHASE TWO\*

Statements to the Legislature of Ontario by the Honourable John Roberts (November 28, 1968) and the Honourable W. Darcy McKeough (December 2, 1968)

## DESIGN FOR DEVELOPMENT: PHASE THREE\*

Statements to the Legislature of Ontario by the Honourable W.G. Davis (June 16, 1972) and to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario by the Honourable W. Darcy McKeough (June 17, 1972)

## MUSKOKA DISTRICT LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW

D.M. Paterson, Research Director and Commissioner  
RESEARCH REPORT\* August 1968

## FINAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS June 1969

## SUMMARY OF FINAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

## PROVINCIAL ASSISTANCE TO MUNICIPALITIES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Ministry of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs February 1973.

## THE REFORM OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT IN ONTARIO PROGRESS REPORT NO. 3\*

Department of Municipal Affairs November 1971 (currently being up-dated)

## DESIGN FOR DEVELOPMENT—PROSPECTS FOR THE GEORGIAN BAY REGION\*

Ministry of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs September 1972.

## GEORGIAN BAY REGIONAL PLAN 1968-1972

Prepared for the Georgian Bay Regional Development Council by Norman Pearson (University of Guelph) September 1968.

## INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL IN NORTHERN ONTARIO

John Pearson — Chairman  
REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS\* July 31, 1969.

## MUSKOKA-PARRY SOUND AREA HIGHWAY PLANNING STUDY

Ministry of Transportation and Communications 1972.

## NORTH GEORGIAN BAY RECREATIONAL RESERVE—A SUMMARY REPORT

Department of Lands and Forests May 29, 1971.

## PLANNING FOR THE NORTH GEORGIAN BAY RESIDENTIAL RESERVE

Prepared for the Department of Lands and Forests by Norman Pearson (University of Waterloo) December 1965.

## A PLANNING PROGRAM FOR THE DISTRICT OF PARRY SOUND—AN APPRAISAL

Prepared for the Department of Municipal Affairs by Proctor, Redfern, Bousfield and Bacon (Consulting Engineers and Planners) March 1972.

## THE FUTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT\*

An address by Donald Irvine, M.P.P. and Parliamentary Assistant to the Treasurer of Ontario to the Parry Sound Municipal Association, Magnetawan April 16, 1973.

## A PLANNING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT STUDY FOR PARRY SOUND DISTRICT\*

An address by Donald Irvine to municipal representatives meeting in Foley Township and South River August 23, 1973.

## RESTRUCTURING OUR COUNTIES\*

Remarks by the Honourable John White, Treasurer of Ontario to the Annual Convention of the Association of Counties and Regions of Ontario Hamilton October 29, 1973.

# terms of reference

## Study Area

All of the District of Parry Sound and these portions of the District of Nipissing: the Township of Chisholm and the geographic townships of Ballantyne, Paxton, Buft and McCraney.

## Study Objectives

1. To recommend to the Treasurer of Ontario, changes in the local government system in the Study Area that may be necessary to enable local needs and objectives to be met.
2. To recommend to the Treasurer of Ontario, planning organization, strategies and programs for refinement, adoption and implementation by local government and Provincial ministries and agencies with jurisdiction in the Study Area.
3. To ensure that the opinions of municipal councils and residents are discussed and are taken into account in future decisions made on local government organization and planning in the Study Area.

## Study Organization

**Area Committees** composed of representatives of municipalities and permanent residents of the unorganized territory in the Study Area.

### Responsible for

- discussing with and advising the Study Group on the conduct and results of the Study Activities (listed below);
- holding discussions and public meetings with local boards, groups, associations and residents;
- making recommendations (through their chairmen) to the District Municipal Advisory Committee.

**District Municipal Advisory Committee** composed of the chairman of each of the Area Committees.

### Responsible for

- making recommendations to the Study Group on local government reorganization and planning, based on the advice and assistance of the Area Committees and the Study Group;
- meeting with representatives of intermunicipal bodies, Provincial ministries and agencies and associations whose jurisdiction or interest covers more than one Area Committee's jurisdiction;
- meeting with municipalities adjacent to the Study Area;
- discussing issues, problems or opinions arising during the course of the Study with the Study Group and, on major issues with the Parliamentary Assistant to the Treasurer.

**Study Group** composed of Provincial Civil Servants.

### Responsible for

- providing information, technical advice and administrative support to the Area Committees and the District Municipal Advisory Committee;
- ensuring that local and Area Committee opinions are correctly reflected in Study publications and draft reports;
- ensuring that Provincial objectives, policies and requirements with respect to local government reform and planning are correctly reflected in Study publications and draft reports.

**Provincial Liaison Committee** composed of representatives from Provincial ministries and agencies.

### Responsible for

- assisting the Study Group where appropriate with the Study activities;
- maintaining inter-ministerial liaison on programs and policies affecting the Study Area.

## Study Activities

To accomplish the Study objectives, the Study Group will be responsible for undertaking the following activities, with the advice and assistance of the Area Committees, District Municipal Advisory Committee and Provincial Liaison Committee.

### Liaison and Consultation

- with municipal councils, boards, groups and associations, individually and through the Area Committees and the District Municipal Advisory Committee;
- with the general public, through a public information and participation program, including public meetings, publications, newsletters and the local media;
- with Provincial ministries and agencies, individually and through the Provincial Liaison Committee.

### Review and Report on Local Government

- the structure, organization, financing, methods of operation, functions and responsibilities of all the municipalities and local and inter-municipal special-purpose bodies;
- the characteristics and administration of local services in all unorganized territory;
- the effects of present and anticipated future programs, projects and policies of the Governments of Ontario and Canada upon the responsibilities and resources of local government;
- trends and problems of concern to local councils and residents of the District, related to the above and other topics.

### Review and Report on Planning

- collection of published data, reports and publications;
- mapping from various data sources, especially base and land use mapping for future planning program;
- general surveys and analyses of physical, economic and social characteristics and issues;
- detailed surveys and analyses of particular areas, trends or problems, with assistance from Area Committees and consultants where appropriate;
- liaison with the regional planning program for the Northeastern Ontario Planning Region, strategic land use planning being undertaken by the Ministry of Natural Resources, and other related planning programs and policies.

# need more information?

If this issue of SOUNDINGS raises questions or opinions, don't hesitate to follow them up. Contact your area representative or the study office which is presently located in Toronto.

To call Toronto from anywhere in Parry Sound District, just dial the long-distance operator and ask for the toll-free line, Zenith 95910. Callers in the Metropolitan Toronto telephone area should dial 965-1605.

For extra copies of SOUNDINGS, reports and other publications of the District of Parry Sound Local Government Study, send your name and address to the study office and you'll be placed on the mailing list:

**Publications**  
District of Parry Sound Local Government Study  
4th floor, Frost Building North  
Queen's Park  
Toronto M7A 1Z3



Ontario

Ministry of Treasury  
Economics and  
Intergovernmental  
Affairs

The Honourable John White minister  
A. Rendall Dick deputy minister